

WASHINGTON STATE

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

MONTHLY REPORT

August 2004

CATEGORY	AUGUST 2004	AUGUST 2003	YTD 04	YTD 03
CSEPP INCIDENTS	2	5	30	24
DOE INCIDENTS	1	3	7	13
FIRE	53	86	286	358
HAZMAT	202	152	1299	1186
OTHER	34	21	191	164
911 OUTAGES	1	1	19	24
SAR	71	75	402	415
TERRORIST	0	0	0	0
WEATHER	8	4	50	35
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	372	347	2285	2219

LEGEND

CSEPP	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On August 1, Pierce County Sheriff's Officer reported a six-year-old autistic child missing in the Lake City area of Lakewood. EMD assisted in the dispatch of the King County Sheriff's Department Helicopter "Guardian One." Ground searchers to include dog teams and sheriff's deputies were also deployed to the area. Sadly, the search was terminated early the next morning when the boy was recovered, deceased, from American Lake.

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- On August 2, the National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm watch for Benton, Columbia, Franklin and Walla Walla counties for potentially damaging winds and large hail. The watch was terminated later in the evening with no major damage reported.
- On August 2, State Fire Resource Mobilization was approved for the 600-acre Mill Canyon Fire in Lincoln County by Davenport. Already at Phase II Enhanced Operations in response to the Elk Heights Fire, the State EOC continued Phase II Enhanced Operations in response to the Mill Canyon Fire as well. State Fire Resources were demobilized for the Mill Canyon Fire on August 6th at 1800 hours after consuming a total of 1100 acres.
- On August 3, the National Homeland Security Advisory System was elevated to “Orange” or High threat level for specific points on the east coast. Although the advisory level for Washington State remained yellow – “Elevated”, as a precautionary measure, the State EOC assumed and will remain at a Phase II operational posture for the duration of this event.
- On August 3, State Fire Resource Mobilization for the Elk Heights Fire officially ended at 1930 hours. The State EOC remained at Phase II Enhanced Operations supporting the Mill Canyon Fire and the increased threat level on the East Coast.
- On August 4, the National Weather Service issued a Severe Thunderstorm Watch for Columbia and Walla Walla counties for potentially damaging winds and large hail. The watch was terminated later in the evening with no major damage reported.
- On August 5, State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notified the State EOC of a National Response Center report #730951, stating that a shipment of radioactive material Type A, P32 (Phosphorous), liquid salt, was lost while in transit from Wilmington, Ohio to Bothell, Washington. The material is used as a biological tracer. The package containing this material was found early the next morning at the SeaTac Airport and sent on to the final destination.
- On August 6, the National Weather Service issued another Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Snohomish County for potentially damaging winds and large hail. The warning was terminated later in the evening with minor damages and localized flooding shown on local television stations.

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- On August 6, Yakima County commenced a search for two missing male climbers on Mt Adams. Additional ground personnel were coordinated from Klickitat, Skamania, Lewis, Kittitas and Pierce Counties. Additionally fixed wing aircraft from Hood River, Oregon were coordinated by the Washington State Department Of Transportation (DOT), Aeronautics Division together with a military aircraft to locate the missing climbers. The missing climbers were located midday on August 7, with one in stable condition and one deceased.
- On August 7, Skamania County commenced a search for a missing female berry picker near Stabler. Additionally, a fixed wing aircraft was coordinated by Washington State Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division and a military aircraft was coordinated to locate the missing berry picker. The women was located in good condition around midnight on August 7th by ground search personnel.
- On August 10, a search was conducted in the Poulsbo area for a missing 66 year old female. Resources were coordinated from Pierce County to assist in the search. On August 11, additional resources were coordinated from King, Pierce, Grays Harbor, Mason, Thurston, and Snohomish counties. The subject was found in good condition on August 11th.
- On August 11, State Fire Resource Mobilization was approved for the 500-acre Fischer Fire in Chelan County north of Peshastin. The State EOC, already at Phase II Enhanced Operations due to the increased threat level on the East Coast, assumed a Phase II posture for the Fischer Fire as well. The fire continued to build until August 23rd when the size of the wildfire reached 16, 422 acres in size and State Fire Resources were demobilized at 1200 hours. One residence and 2 outbuildings were damaged and 1 residence was destroyed
- On August 11, State Fire Resource Mobilization was approved for the Mud Lake Fire northwest of Naches. The State EOC, already at Phase II Enhanced Operations due to the increased threat level on the East Coast and the Fischer Fire, assumed a Phase II posture for the Mud Lake Fire as well. State Fire Resources for the Mud Lake Fire were demobilized at 1800 hours on August 14th after the fire had consumed 4000 acres. The State EOC remained at Phase II Enhanced Operations for the Fischer Fire and the threat level increase on the East Coast.

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- On August 12, the National Weather Service issued a series of Fire Weather Watches for all counties along the Cascade foothills and all of Eastern Washington. The Watch was upgraded on August 12th and 13th to a Red Flag Warning for counties along the east and west slopes of the Cascades and most of Eastern Washington. The Fire Weather Warning was finally terminated on August 17th at 1630 hours.
- On August 16, the University of Washington Seismology lab reported that a 4.0 magnitude earthquake had occurred at 2:05 pm 12 miles NNW of Goat Rocks, WA. No reports of damages were reported.
- On August 16, the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) reported that a major mud slide near the town of Diablo in Whatcom County had closed State Route 20 over the north Cascade Mountains. DOT crews were able to reopen the roadway on August 17th after removal of the debris.
- On August 18, the National Weather Service issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning and a Flash Flood Warning for Stevens County as the storm front passed through Washington State from Canada.
- On August 19, an Amber Alert was issued for a 10 month-old child (Casey Harris) abducted in Bellevue, Washington. Emergency Alert System messages, Access messages and pages were sent out from the Washington State Emergency Management Division at the request of the Seattle Police Department and the Washington State Patrol. The child was safely recovered and the abductor was placed in custody 2 hours later.
- On August 23, Chelan County opened a recovery mission to rescue 2 injured hikers at the 9000 foot level of Mt. Stewart about 20 miles north of Cle Elum. Bad weather prevented the rescue by helicopter requiring the rescue to be accomplished entirely with mountain rescue volunteers on the ground. Mountain rescue volunteers from Seattle, Pierce and Yakima Counties were coordinated to hike up to the top of the mountain where these 2 hikers were located and bring them back down to safety. Both hikers were removed from the mountain at first light on the 24th of August. They were examined at a local hospital and released.
- On August 31, 2004 the Columbia Generating Station conducted its annual graded exercise. The State EOC assumed Phase III operations effective at 0805 in support of this exercise drill which lasted throughout the day.
- For the month of August 2004 the SEOO's:

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- Issued 60 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies
- Issued 5 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies
- Conducted 733 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies
- Coordinated 34 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations
- Participated in 35 exercises of which 25 were vessel spill drills
- Made 1308 and answered 1618 telephone calls
- Conducted 1696 National Warning System Tests, conducted 263 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. (connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console)
- Conducted 60 dedicated line tests with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
- Conducted 2 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE)
- Conducted 5 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)
- Conducted 30 down wind trajectory connectivity communications tests with the Umatilla Military Storage Depot (D2PUFF)